

# NEWS RELEASE

## Kaibab National Forest



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For Immediate Release

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### Star Party features the Milky Way, other Cosmic Celebrities

**GRAND CANYON NORTH RIM, Ariz.** - Have you ever found it difficult to orientate yourself while stargazing under the night sky? Now is your chance to do so with a real-life astronomer.

Sponsored by the Kaibab Lodge, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Star Party is free to the public from June 21 through June 28. Astronomers from the Saguaro Astronomy Club, from the Phoenix area, will be on hand with telescopes to help visitors navigate the night sky.

“The sky here at the Grand Canyon is ideal for observing other planets, stars, nebulae, globular clusters, and many, many other objects in the night sky,” said Ellen Winchester, Kaibab Lodge owner and event host. “Imagine you are in a meadow under the dark sky. As you gaze upward, a shimmering white ribbon dances across the sky. It’s the Milky Way, and to be able to view it is a real treat because there are not many places left on earth where it is so easily visible due to light pollution.”

The Star Party will begin each evening with a lecture from 7 to 8 pm at the DeMotte Campground amphitheater followed by the viewing at 9 pm. Opening night will commence with a Star Party cookie party featuring both regular and gluten-free, triple-chocolate “Deep Dark Secrets on a Starry Night” homemade cookies, and each night a pair of hand-crafted “El Winchester” earrings designed specifically for the Star Party will be given away as a door prize.

“This is a wonderful educational event for the community. We especially welcome home-schooled children and any child interested in astronomy. The Star Party is a fun and interesting science field trip, and a great opportunity to spend some quality family time together,” said Winchester.

On behalf of the Kaibab Lodge, a special thank you goes out to the event co-sponsors: Phoenix-area Saguaro Astronomy Club, International Dark Sky Society, Recreation Resource Management, and the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest.

For more information, please visit [www.kaibablodge.com](http://www.kaibablodge.com) or call Ellen Winchester at 928-638-2389.

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